GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2855
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
POACHING OF CHIRUS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chirus are still being slaughtered to run a flourishing shahtoosh trade despite a ban on its killing under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to stop the killings of Chirus and protect it from extinction?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) & (b) No incident of poaching of Chiru has been reported from Indian side of its range. Nevertheless, Government has taken preventive steps to check poaching and illegal trade of its products. These steps, inter alia, include the following:-

i) The Jammu & Kashmir Government has amended its Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1978 giving complete protection to Chiru and banning the manufacture and trade of its products.

ii) Chiru is included in schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and is, therefore, granted highest degree of protection. Hunting and trade in its parts and products is a punishable offence. The punishment for such offences has been recently enhanced to a minimum of three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000/-.

iii) Awareness programme has been initiated amongst the people with the help of NGO`s to prevent the use of shahtoosh shawls and other items..